IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for obtaining geographical zone data for a mobile subscriber unit, the method comprising the steps of:

A) a geographical layer interface receiving a request from an application for geographical zone data for the mobile subscriber unit, wherein the request includes:

a mobile subscriber identifier that is associated with the mobile subscriber unit; and

a zone type of a plurality of predefined zone types, wherein the zone type ~~that~~ identifies a type of predetermined geographical area; and

B) returning a reply to the request, wherein the reply includes: a zone identifier that identifies a current geographical area where the mobile subscriber unit is located and the current geographical area has the zone type included in the request;

wherein a zone manager coupled to the geographical layer interface receives the request;

a location manager coupled to the zone manager delivers a location of the mobile subscriber unit as determined by a position determination equipment; and

the zone manager uses the location of the mobile subscriber unit and a database of zone data to determine the zone identifier.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the request further includes:

a switching center identifier that identifies the mobile switching center serving the mobile subscriber unit.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the request is a transaction control application protocol message and the reply is a transaction control application protocol message.

4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the request is received over one of a Internet protocol network and a signaling system seven network and the reply is returned over one of a Internet protocol network and a signaling system seven network.

5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the request is received via a message defined by one of an ANSI41 and a GSM standard.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the mobile subscriber unit comprises one of a wireless telephone, personal digital assistant, and computer.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the mobile subscriber unit is at least one of a voice communications device and a data communications device.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the zone type identifies one of a personal zone and a shared zone.

9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the zone type comprises a request to create a zone.

10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the reply includes a text string associated with the zone identifier.

11. (currently amended) A telecommunications network apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a request for geographical zone data for a mobile subscriber unit, wherein the request includes:

a mobile subscriber identifier that is associated with the mobile

subscriber unit; and

a zone type of a plurality of predefined zone types, wherein the zone type ~~that~~ identifies a type of predetermined geographical area;

means for returning a reply to the request, wherein the reply includes: a zone identifier that identifies a current geographical area where the mobile subscriber unit is located and the current geographical area has the zone type included in the request;

a zone manager coupled to the receiving means to receive the request;

a location manager coupled to the zone manager to deliver a location of the mobile subscriber unit as determined by a position determination equipment; and

wherein the zone manager uses the location of the mobile subscriber unit and a database of zone data to determine the zone identifier.

12. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the request further includes:

a switching center identifier that identifies a mobile switching center serving the mobile subscriber unit.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the request is a transaction control application protocol message and the reply is a transaction control application protocol message.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the request is received over one of a Internet protocol network and a signaling system seven network and the reply is returned over one of a Internet protocol network and a signaling system seven network.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the request is received via a

message defined by one of an ANSI41 and a GSM standard.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the zone type identifies one of a personal zone and a shared zone.

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the zone type comprises a request to create a zone.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the reply includes a text string associated with the zone identifier.

19. (previously canceled)

20. (currently amended) A telecommunications network apparatus comprising:

a geographical layer interface that receives a request for geographical zone data for a mobile subscriber unit, wherein the request includes:

a mobile subscriber identifier that is associated with the mobile subscriber unit; and

a zone type of a plurality of predefined zone types, wherein the zone type ~~that~~ identifies a type of predetermined geographical area;

wherein the geographical layer interface returns a reply to the request, wherein the reply includes: a zone identifier that identifies a current geographical area where the mobile subscriber unit is located and the current geographical area has the zone type included in the request;

a zone manager coupled to the geographical layer interface to receive the request;

a location manager coupled to the zone manager to deliver a location of the mobile subscriber unit as determined by a position determination equipment;

and

wherein the zone manager uses the location of the mobile subscriber unit and a database of zone data to determine the zone identifier.